

[4 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a)
No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Viability of Dabhol Power Project is based on LNG/Gas as fuel. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas who are facilitating sourcing of LNG/gas for this project have informed that:

- (i) Pending LNG terminal becoming fully operational, the RLNG will be transported from Dahej LNG terminal through Dahej-Uran Pipeline (DUPL) and Dabhol-Panvel Pipeline (DPPL), being laid by GAIL. These pipelines would be commissioned by the end of March, 2007.
- (ii) Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) is discussing with RasGas Qatar for import of 1.2 MMTPA LNG on short term basis from 2007-2009. PLL has reported that RasGas has confirmed supply of 3 cargoes every-two-months-meaning 18 cargoes during a year, i.e. 1.20 to 1.25 to 1.25 MMTPA. It is pertinent to mention that this is the maximum additional LNG, which PLL can handle, because of constraints of storage and regasification capacity. The price is under discussion between PLL and RasGas, Qatar.
- (iii) GAIL is also holding discussions with Sonatrach, Algeria for supply of 1.2 MMTPA LNG on long term basis from 2009. Further discussions in this regard with Sonatrach are expected to be held in November/December, 2006 in Algeria. GAIL is also discussing with various other potential gas suppliers for sourcing LNG for the project on long term basis.

Clearance of power projects

1293. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is thinking of putting clearance process of power projects on the fast track to speed up the augmentation of capacity;

(b) whether this process is applicable to only public sector

undertakings or is it also applicable for private power plants and JVs in the country;

(c) if not, the reasons for not providing this facility to private power plants;

(d) whether any ceiling is put for clearing projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether it is also a fact that the projects worth up to Rs. 1,500 crores no longer need clearance either from the Public Investment Board or the Cabinet; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (g) The following steps have been taken by the Government to facilitate the developing of power projects:

1. With the coming into effect of the Electricity Act, 2003, concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is no longer required for thermal generation and transmission schemes.
2. Concurrence of CEA is now required only for setting up of Hydro electric schemes, and the limits of capital expenditure for such schemes has been substantially enhanced. Government has fixed the following limits of capital expenditure for hydro electric schemes requiring concurrence of CEA:

(i) Rs. 2500 crores, provided that—

- The scheme is included in National Electric Plan (NEP) as notified by CEA and conforms to the capacity and type.
- The site for setting up the hydro generating stations has been allocated through the transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by Central Government.

(ii) Rs. 500 crores for any other schemes not covered as stated above.

3. The requirement of obtaining 'in principle' approval of the Planning

Commission and procedure of examination by Pre Public Investment Board in respect of power projects has been dispensed with in order to reduce the time cycle of sanctioning of public sector projects.

4. The limit for incurring capital expenditure on new project without Government approval has been enhanced for Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).
5. The National Thermal Power Corporation which is Navratna Public Sector Undertaking, and Damodar Valley Corporation, which is a statutory organization created by an Act of Parliament do not require any approval of the Government of incurring capital expenditure for taking up new projects.
6. Concerned State Government grants the investment approval for power project under the State Sector.

Demand and supply of power

1294. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of power generated in the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the demand for power is continuously on the rise from agricultural, industrial and non-production (household) sectors;

(c) if so, the details for the last five years, year-wise, State-wise and sector-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that loss to the extent of 40 per cent is suffered by the power plants at the production and distribution stage itself; and

(e) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to minimize such loss and enhance power generation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The details of quantum of power generated in the various States of the country during the last five years are enclosed of Statement-I (See below).

(b) and (c) A Statement indicating (State-wise and category-wise)